

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 PM-04 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8117

INFO SEC ABMC WASHDC

UNCLAS PARIS 05430

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, FR, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT WAR MEMORIAL IN
FRANCE

REF: (A) STATE 4711 (B) PARIS 1098

TO FOLLOW UP REPORT TRANSMITTED REFTEL (B), GENERAL DONALDSON INFORMS US THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS STILL IN PROCESS OF DETERMINING HOW BEST TO TRANSFER JURISDICTION OF POINTE DU HOC MEMORIAL SITE TO ABMC. MINISTRY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS BEEN ADVISED BY COMMITTEE OF POINTE DU HOC THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR GOF TO EXPROPRIATE LAND SINCE LOCAL OWNERS APPEAR TO BE OPPOSED TO LONG-TERM LEASING ARRANGEMENT. COMMITTEE OF POINTE DU HOC IS NOW AWAITING RESPONSE OF MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO THIS LATEST PROPOSAL. IN VIEW OF LOCAL SENSITIVITIES ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, AND SINCE MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPEARS TO BE INTERESTED IN ARRANGING TRANSFER OF LAND TO ABMC JURISDICTION, WE HAVE DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST TO ALLOW MVA ADDITIONAL TIME TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION BEFORE TAKING ANY INITIATIVES AT DIPLOMATIC LEVELS. IF THERE ARE NO DEVELOPMENTS BY MID-MARCH, EMBASSY INTENDS TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT USG IS READY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SITE.

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RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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